



## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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### **DEQ receives \$435,200 in stimulus funds to improve water quality**

BATON ROUGE – The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency has awarded the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality \$435,200 in stimulus funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, in an effort to improve water quality and create jobs.

Part of the money will be used to update Total Maximum Daily Loads, also known as TMDL, for five water bodies in the Barataria and Terrebonne Basins. A TMDL is the maximum amount of pollution that a water body can receive and meet the water quality standards set for that water body.

DEQ will have a contractor look at the TMDLs that exist and review, update or modify them to take into consideration new discharges, new criteria revisions and discharge scenarios. The contractor will look at both point and nonpoint source pollution. Another task will be to look at impaired water bodies specifically for fecal coliform and lead contamination. Fecal coliform contamination affects primary and secondary recreational uses, while lead contamination affects fish and wildlife propagation use.

Forty percent of the money, or \$174,080, will help develop Water and Waste Water Emergency plans. DEQ will work through the Louisiana Association of Planning and development Districts with a cooperative agreement. DEQ will work with LAPDD to, where possible, incorporate green infrastructure concepts into the emergency plans.

“This stimulus money will be spread into the economy to do specialized water quality tasks that must be done,” said Paul Miller, Assistant Secretary for the Office of Environmental Assessment. “It gives DEQ the opportunity to contract to have work done that we would not have had the staff or funds to otherwise address. It has the added benefit of providing more money into the economy and creating more job opportunities.”

For more information go to [www.deq.louisiana.gov](http://www.deq.louisiana.gov).

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